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IN MEMORIAM

DEATH OF DR. REZNEAT DARNELL, TEXAS A&M OCEANOGRAPHER & ECOLOGIST

Rezneat Milton Darnell, Jr., well-known and respected ecologist and marine biologist, died on 22 Dec. 2009 in Minneapolis, MN after a brief illness with pneumonia and suspected lung cancer.

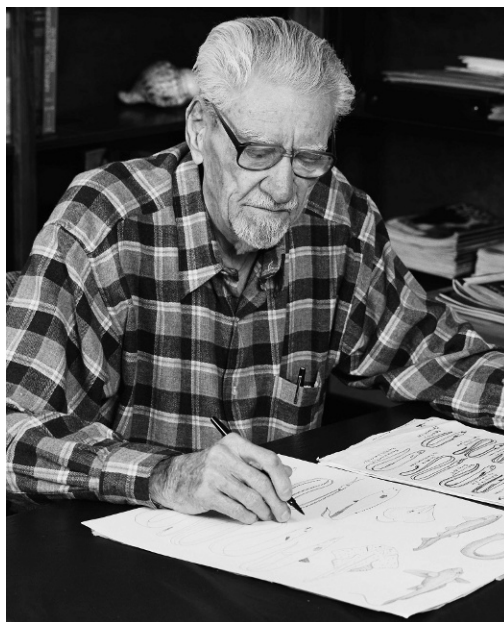
Rez was born in Memphis, TN on 14 Oct. 1924. His parents were Rezneat Milton Darnell, Sr., and Matilda Millen Darnell. Dr. Darnell was Professor of Oceanography at Texas A&M University from 1968 until his retirement in 1995 (as Professor Emeritus).

In 1946 Darnell graduated from Southwestern College (now known as Rhodes College) in Memphis, TN with a bachelor's degree in Zoology. He received his master's degree in Biology and Genetics from Rice University in Houston, TX in 1948 and his Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Minnesota in 1953. Before coming to Texas A&M, Darnell served 3 years as an instructor at Tulane University in New Orleans, LA and 13 years as an assistant professor at Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI.

Dr. Darnell published numerous scientific papers on the ecology of the Gulf of Mexico. His last work, soon to be published by the Texas A&M Press, is a comprehensive book on the ecology of the Gulf of Mexico and is eagerly awaited by colleagues across the nation. His many graduate students have praised his lectures and his ability to clearly and concisely explain the complex environmental problems of our planet.

Dr. Linda Pequegnat, former Research Scientist in the Oceanography Department at Texas A&M and a friend and colleague of Dr. Darnell's, says,

Rez has been called 'The Great Synthesizer' because of his ability to take detached scientific information and organize it into meaningful overviews that explain the 'big picture' of ecological relationships in the natural world. He was also a 'Renaissance Man' with extensive knowledge and experiences in such diverse areas as music, languages, and history—in addition to his vast scientific knowledge. His forthcoming book, soon to be published by the Texas A&M Press, on the history, biology,



ecology, and management of the Gulf of Mexico pulls together more information about the Gulf of Mexico than has ever before been amassed in one volume.

Dr. Darnell was preceded in death by his parents and by his older brother, Rowland Jones Darnell. He is survived by his loving and caregiver daughter, Molly Marie Darnell, of Minneapolis, MN; his brother, J. Millen Darnell, of Memphis, TN; his first wife, Jeanne Hellberg Darnell, of Minneapolis, MN; and many nieces and nephews, including James Darnell, currently serving his second tour of duty in Afghanistan. Private memorial services and entombment were held 22 Jan. 2010 at 2 PM at Lakewood Chapel/Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN.

Donations may be made in Dr. Rezneat M. Darnell's name to the American Red Cross/Haiti Relief Fund. Other people who can be contacted for information on Dr. Darnell include Jim Hiney (Texas Sea Grant Program; 979-862-3773) and Dr. John Wormuth (Department of Oceanography; 979-845-7132).

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